## June 2, 2009

Senator Herb Kohl
Chairman
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20150

Senator Sam Brownback
Ranking Member
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

## Dear Chairman Kohl and Ranking Member Brownback:

We the undersigned farm, forestry, conservation and environmental organizations urge you to maintain the mandatory spending levels for conservation programs as provided in the 2008 Farm Bill and to reject the Obama Administration's proposed cuts to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Farmland Protection Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Agricultural Management Assistance Program, and Healthy Forest Reserve Program. We also encourage you to increase funding for conservation technical assistance and to prohibit the Administration from administratively ending the CRP Public Access program.

The decisions on the farm bill funding were not without a great amount of debate. Congress approved the Food, Conservation and Energy Act twice over the vetoes of President Bush. We are disappointed that President Obama's budget continues the unfortunate pattern of proposing cuts to conservation programs below mandatory levels established in the farm bill, in this case asking for over \$500 million in cuts for FY 10 plus additional long-term permanent cuts. Demand for participation in conservation programs routinely far outstrips available funding, and this proposal will only exacerbate that problem as well as undermine conservation practice adoption on-the-ground.

We urge you to maintain the mandatory conservation funding levels as agreed to last year in the 2008 Farm Bill and reject the proposed one-year and permanent cuts.

## Sincerely,

American Beekeeping Federation
American Farmland Trust
American Forest Foundation
American Honey Producers Association
American Soybean Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
American Mushroom Institute

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Defenders of Wildlife

**Ducks** Unlimited

Environmental Defense Fund

Environmental Working Group

Izaak Walton League of America

Land Trust Alliance

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Mississippi River Trust

National Association of Conservation Districts

National Association of State Foresters

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Audubon Society

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

National Conservation District Employees Association

National Corn Growers Association

National Cotton Council

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Farmers Union

National Milk Producers Federation

National Pork Producers Council

National Sorghum Producers

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

National Turkey Federation

National Wildlife Federation

National Woodland Owners Association

Natural Resources Defense Council

Partners for Sustainable Pollination

Pheasants Forever

Pollinator Partnership

Public Lands Council

Quail Forever

Society of American Foresters

The Nature Conservancy

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Trout Unlimited

USA Rice Federation

Union of Concerned Scientists

United Egg Producers

Western Growers

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Wildlife Mississippi

World Wildlife Fund